

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A voice messaging system, comprising:

a telephone line interface;

a controller;

voice message memory adapted to store a plurality of voice messages; and

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a secured message authorization module adapted to allow a calling party to separately secure a voice message for access only by an authorized user.

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2. The voice messaging system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a playback/recorder module adapted to record said voice message.

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3. The voice messaging system according to claim 1, further comprising:

an authorized security code table including information relating to an ability of said calling party to separately secure said voice message.

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4. The voice messaging system according to claim 3, wherein:

said authorized security code table further includes at least one security code allowing at least one user access to said separately secured voice message.

5. The voice messaging system according to claim 3,  
wherein:

5 said authorized security code table is adapted to include call  
related information relating to at least one calling party authorized to  
secure a voice message.

6. The voice messaging system according to claim 1,  
wherein:

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said secured message authorization module is adapted to  
allow said calling party to secure a voice message upon entry of an  
authorized security code by said calling party.

7. The voice messaging system according to claim 1,  
wherein:

15 said secured message authorization module is adapted to  
allow said calling party to secure a voice message upon matching of call  
related information relating to said calling party to at least one pre-stored  
entry of call related information regarding an ability to secure a voice  
message.

20 8. The voice messaging system according to claim 1,  
wherein:

each of said plurality of voice messages stored in said voice  
message memory include header information, said header information  
25 including a secure status of said voice message.

9. The voice messaging system according to claim 1, further  
comprising:

30 a call related information detector/receiver adapted to detect  
and receive call related information regarding said calling party.

10. The voice messaging system according to claim 1,  
wherein:

5 said controller is adapted to compare call related information  
received regarding said calling party with at least one pre-stored  
authorized security code to allow said calling party to separately secure  
said voice message.

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10 11. A method for securing a voice message on a voice  
messaging system, comprising:

prompting a calling party to enter an authorized security  
code;

15 comparing an entered authorized security code to at least  
one pre-stored authorized security code accessible by said voice  
messaging system; and

upon matching said entered authorized security code with  
said at least one pre-stored authorized security code, securing a recorded  
voice message.

20 12. The method for securing a voice message on a voice  
messaging system according to claim 11, wherein:

said securing is performed after said voice message is  
recorded.

25 13. The method for securing a voice message on a voice  
messaging system according to claim 11, wherein:

said securing is performed while said voice message is  
being recorded.

14. The method for securing a voice message on a voice messaging system according to claim 11, wherein:

said securing is performed before said voice message is recorded.

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15. The method for securing a voice message on a voice messaging system according to claim 11, further comprising:

entering said authorized security code from a telephone being used by said calling party.

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16. A method for accessing a secured voice message on a voice messaging system, comprising:

prompting a user of said voice messaging system to enter an authorized security code on a voice message-by-voice message basis for secured voice messages;

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comparing an entered authorized security code to at least one pre-stored authorized security code accessible by said voice messaging system; and

upon matching said entered authorized security code with said at least one pre-stored authorized security code, allowing said user access to an underlying secured voice message.

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17. The method for accessing a secured voice message on a voice messaging system according to claim 16, further comprising:

entering said authorized security code for each secured voice message.

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18. Apparatus for securing a voice message on a voice messaging system, comprising:

means for prompting a calling party to enter an authorized security code;

5 means for comparing an entered authorized security code to at least one pre-stored authorized security code accessible by said voice messaging system; and

means for securing a recorded voice message, upon matching said entered authorized security code with said at least one pre-stored authorized security code.

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19. The apparatus for securing a voice message on a voice messaging system according to claim 18, wherein:

15 said means for securing secures said voice message after said voice message is recorded.

20. The apparatus for securing a voice message on a voice messaging system according to claim 18, wherein:

20 said means for securing secures said voice message while said voice message is being recorded.

21. The apparatus for securing a voice message on a voice messaging system according to claim 18, wherein:

25 said means for securing secures said voice message before said voice message is recorded.

22. The apparatus for securing a voice message on a voice messaging system according to claim 18, further comprising:

30 means for entering said authorized security code from a telephone being used by said calling party.

23. Apparatus for accessing a secured voice message on a voice messaging system, comprising:

5 means for prompting a user of said voice messaging system to enter an authorized security code on a voice message-by-voice message basis for secured voice messages;

means for comparing an entered authorized security code to at least one pre-stored authorized security code accessible by said voice messaging system; and

10 means for allowing said user access to an underlying secured voice message, upon matching said entered authorized security code with said at least one pre-stored authorized security code.

24. The apparatus for accessing a secured voice message on a voice messaging system according to claim 23, further comprising:

15 means for entering said authorized security code for each secured voice message.